

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, second full paragraph, insert the heading

**BACKGROUND**

Page 3, before line 1, insert the heading

**SUMMARY OF INVENTION**

Page 8, replace the paragraph beginning at line 10 with the amended paragraph as follows

So that the filler 6 of vulcanized rubber mix cannot be ejected from the tread under the action of centrifugal force during travel when the wear of the tread reaches the radially outer ends 53 of the branches 51 and 52 of the anti-connection elements 5 it is advantageous for there to be a partial connection between the filler 6 and the rest of the tread 3. To this end, and as shown for example in Figure 2, the trace (that is to say the contour or the geometric form) of the radially outer ends 53 is preferably representative of what is called a periodic function: the ends may ~~be~~ form recesses such as by having a shape that is undulating (Figure 2), or provided with notches of rectangular form (Figure 6) or of triangular or semi-circular form (not shown). When the wear of the tread 3 is such that the wear indicators 34 are in contact with the ground, the parts of the ends 53, radially closest to the surface of the tread 3, of the insert 5 appear on the running surface, while bridges of vulcanized rubber remain which hold the filler 6 in place at least for a certain time. These rubber bridges are capable of being broken by a person who wishes to recreate new grooves by removing the filler 6 relatively easily.

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 with the amended paragraph as follows

The partial connection between the rubber of the filler 6 and the rest of the tread can also be effected on the branches 51 and 52. As shown in Figure 3, the branches 51 and 52 of the insert, formed of the same material as previously, are provided with recesses in the form of orifices of closed contour 55 in their upper part (that is to say close to the running surface in the initial state) which make it possible for rubber mix to pass through during the molding of the tread to connect the tread and the regrooving filler 6, and thus to create bridges of vulcanized rubber, which bridges will then be broken by cutting and/or by traction at the time of the regrooving operation.

Page 9, replace the paragraph beginning at line 6 with the amended paragraph as follows

It is possible to use other variants: if the form of a U shown in Figures 2 and 3 is referred to as an open surface, the circular form of Figure 4 is a form having a closed surface (circular form in the case). The insert 5 internally encloses the regrooving filler 6 of rubber mix and is provided with recesses in the form of orifices 55 passing through said closed surface to create bridges of rubber between said filler and the rest of the tread at the time of molding of the tread.

Page 9, replace the paragraph beginning at line 11 with the amended paragraph as follows

As ~~orifices~~ recesses for forming connecting bridges between the tread and the regrooving fillers, there may be used orifices having a closed contour or orifices 55 having an open contour or slots (see for example Figure 7), or a recess in the form of a slot 55 having a helicoidal trace on the outer surface of the circumferential regrooving filler 6, said slot 55 being obtained by helicoidal winding of a strip of an insert 5 around a rubber filler 6, the winding pitch being appropriate so that the various turns are not adjoining.

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 20 with the amended paragraph as follows

The tread may also be produced in the pre-vulcanized state in a mould having the special feature of having two dies, each die comprising metallic molding elements which will give rise to grooves in the tread. It is then particularly advantageous to use as anti-connection elements incisions of low thickness  $e$ , less than 1 mm (generally 0.5 mm). As shown in Figures 6 and 7, these U-shaped or V-shaped incisions have the special feature of having two branches 51 and 52 joined at their base by a common part 56, which part is the necessary consequence of demoulding the tread, the incision 5 being created in the vulcanization mould for the tread by a metallic lamella of the same shape and the part 56 enabling attachment to the wall of the mould. It is obvious that the above embodiment does not allow, for the presence of closed orifices on the lateral branches 51 and 52 of the incisions (the rubber bridges would be cut during demoulding), the only way of creating bridges between the rubber of the filler 6 and the rest of the trade being the form of the ends 53 of the branches. Figures 6 and 7 show crenellated forms with a difference in the

dimensions of the bridges, the bridging surface remaining substantially constant:

Figure 6 uses crenellations of low height, whereas the crenellations or slots 55 shown in Figure 7 are deeper but less wide.